Harold Weisberg
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11/18/74

Mr. Walter Bufford, Esq.
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Dear Walter,

I have delayed writing in the hope of obtaining exact measurements from the criminalist. However, I have not and I presume that between teaching and being an expert witness he hasn't had time.

I also presume that your investigator, whose services you were kind enough to offer, knows his business, so all I'd do is make a simple explanation and give the data I have from Bob's notes.

The criminalist volunteered more than I'd asked, which had to do with whether or not definitie conclusions could be reached from the remaining fragment of bullet recovered from King's body and an opinion of what had been sworn to about the windowsill.

He said that from an examination of pictures (we had been told the building was boarded up and access denied) and calculations he believed it impossible for a man holding a rifle and aiming it in the only ways made possible from the alleged mark on the windowsill could not have fit in the available space.

The statemx did not even address, leave alone attempt to rebut, any of his other testimony.

The measured width of the removed windowsill - the inside part- is 31 3/4". From front to back it is 5" the alleged mark is, I presume meaning begins, 16 1/4" from the left-hand edge, looking toward it or out the window. The angle to the right of this alleged mark is not given but as Bob's notes how it, it is less than 45° as the rifle would have pointed. The distance from the outside edge, also not given, is by my recollection something like an inch at the closest point.

Obviously we are dealing with false testimony intended to make the impossible appear to be possible, that in the firing the rifle left this alleged mark. The only part that could is the muzzle and it couldn't and didn't. But taking this false testimony, which began in an FBI agent's affidavit, then from the alleged restingpoint of the muzzle, with the rifle pointed to approximately 3-48 to the north of the cornerx of the balcony on that floor of the Lorraine Motel, how much space is there between 42" from this alleged mark to the wall? The rifle length is 42", not allowing for a man to be in firing position. The alleged downward angle is 4° but even this is wrong, being based upon measurements that have King upright, which would have made the shot come from the moon. I doubt a slightly steeper angle makes much difference.

The measurements we made need besides this is the distance from the north wall to the closer edge of the window frame and the remaining piece of sill and to the point from which the rest of the sill was removed. Obviously also any firing from this alleged position would have removed part of the outside sill, left powder and discharge marks or both. They are not alleged to be present. And a separate question isk how ihle was it to attempt the killing from that point and in that position with the available alternatives, assuming it could have been done.

Chastain tells me he was fired with surveillance a factor. He thinks the surveillance was on him. It included me and it seems to have been unnecessary as a reason for firing him. Chastain had been off this story for a long time. The surveillance could not have included our conversation, in which there was no impropriety on either side. However, someone, I presume Haile, has been spreading falseheeds. One that reaches me only today is that Wayne

signed in at the pen as Ray's lawyer. This came to me from a very responsible reporter who, to my knowledge, spoke to Haile often. It is inconsistent with what both Wayne and Bob told me and in fact could not have been possible, Wayne not then having passed the bars. If he had even taken them.

With the best of intention if not, I think, the best of judgement, Bob took Wayne there and had him sign in as "investigator" in order to show Ray some pictures and in order to frustrate the constant pen leaks which had reporters all over the place when visitors left.

As I see no need for surveillance on Chastain to fire him - I left messages at the paper for him often enough if the connection itself had meaning - that it was directed against me, at least primarily, has other support. My room was entered and searched. Lesar's mail at the motel was overly opened and this was attributed to "accident." I did not get messages. My message light went crazy often enough when I was using the phone but under no other circumstances. And my outgoing mail, deposited in the slot in the bell-captain's stand, was delayed. A letter I put there at the latest the morning of 11/2 was not postmarked until 11/4.

Going along with this Haile was openly asking questions about my background and connections. His questions went past anything that has been published. With my old-fashioned ideas about what is right and what is wrong for the State or for prosecutors I regard all this as highly improper.

But if I was surveilled by the Memphis Publishing Company, I wonder if they did not violate my rights.

Thanks for your kindnesses and your time. It was helpful.

Please say "hello" to Bob and Tony.

Best regards,

P.S. In all of this Wayne knows I am not in accord with what he has written. From before he wrote his book or abstracted articles from it for publication in what to me is a journal of the nuts.